

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are pending in this application. By this Submission, claim 1 is amended.

Support for the amendment can be found in the specification at page 12, lines 20-24 and Figs. 1-5, 8 and 9.

I. The Drawings Satisfy All Formal Requirements

The Office Action objects to the figures. Claim 1 is amended to obviate this objection.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Support for the amendment can be found in the specification at page 12, lines 20-24 and Figs. 1-5, 8 and 9.

The January 23 Office Action rejects claims 1-6, 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over USP 5,200,631 to Austin et al. in view of USP 6,114,737 to Tomai or USP 6,366,375 to Sakai et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Austin does not disclose that optical signal transmission area divided into lattice sections, the light emitting element or the light receiving element located according to at least one of the lattice sections as in the invention of claim 1.

Instead, optical transmitters 13 and optical receivers 15 are arranged on the substrates 12. Substrates are aligned, for example, by three alignment pins or holes. See e.g., col. 6, lines 16-35.

With regard to the optical signal transmission device, as formed by laminating the plurality of optical signal transmission substrates of the invention of claim 1, when the optical signal transmission substrates are placed one over another in parallel with the surface perpendicular to the optical axis of optical signals, the optical signal transmission areas should only overlap one another so as to make at least two positions of the lattice sections (addresses) other respective substrates correspond to one another. Substrates themselves may

not necessarily overlap in their entirety. See e.g., specification at page 26, line 23 to page 27, line 1.

Tonai and Sakai do not provide the deficiencies of Austin. Tonai discloses light detecting regions 1 arranged in a row. See e.g., Fig. 1A. Sakai disclose light emitter 121 and photo receptor 131 are shown abstractly. See e.g., Figs. 1 and 2. In Fig. 12, optical transceivers 42 including transmitter 42A and receiver 42B are arranged in rows.

The Office Action rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Austin in view of Tonai and Sakai and further in view of USP 5,796,714 to Chino et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

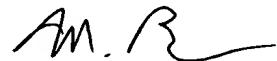
Claim 7 depends from claim 1. As discussed above, claim 1 defines patentable subject matter.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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